

BACKGROUND

Background, EIS Distribution, and How to Use this Document

Background: This document, together with the previously published draft environmental impact statement (Draft EIS), constitutes the - final environmental impact statement (Final EIS) San Luis Rio Colorado Project. Hearing transcripts and copies of written comments received as a result of the public review process are included in **Appendix A**.

Public and agency comments received during the public comment period (November 9, 2006 – January 10, 2007) resulted in the need to clarify some information in the Draft EIS, and to provide expanded and/or additional information to fully address comments. The comments received did not call for additional alternatives or require substantive revisions to the environmental analysis in the Draft EIS, but instead required augmentation of the material in the Draft EIS. For this reason, the full text of the draft has not been reprinted, and this abbreviated Final EIS serves an addendum to the Draft EIS. The materials in this addendum, combined with the Draft EIS, serve together as the complete Final EIS. Copies of the Draft EIS or this addendum may be obtained from the Western Area Power Administration (Western) from the contact provided on the cover sheet at the beginning of this document. This addendum contains the following parts:

- Cover Sheet – Includes the responsible agency, contact persons, and abstract.
- Background – Describes the elements of the abbreviated Final EIS.
- Comment and Response – Response to comments, and shows corrections, revisions, and additions to the Draft EIS for the San Luis Rio Colorado Project.
- References – References for supplemental information included in the responses.
- Appendix A – Draft EIS Comment Compilation Package.
- Appendix B – Underground Transmission Technologies Report and PDC Qualifications.
- Appendix C – Scoping Meeting and Public Hearing Notices.
- Appendix D – Agency Consultation.

EIS Distribution: The officials, agencies, tribes, and organizations listed in the consultation and coordination section of the Draft EIS are receiving a copy of this document. All individuals who requested the Final EIS and those who commented on the Draft EIS, for whom addresses were provided, will receive a copy of this document. To obtain a printed or electronic copy of the EIS or find the location of agencies or libraries that have copies, contact the Western office as on the cover sheet.

How to Use this Document: This abbreviated Final EIS is meant to be used in conjunction with the Draft EIS for the San Luis Rio Colorado Project (Proposed Project). The two documents, together, make up the Final EIS for the Proposed Action. For ease of reference, corrections to the EIS text are noted by page and paragraph number in Response #21 Corrections. Material within a paragraph that has been deleted is shown by a ~~strikeout~~ and added

text is underlined. Typographical, spelling, and punctuation errors are not changed unless necessary to make the passage understandable.

As previously stated, Appendix A contains a compilation of comments received on the Draft EIS; it also contains a response tracking table. Within Appendix A, the comment and response tracking table is presented first to make it easier to find the response topic(s) that correspond to specific comments. Columns within the table include: comment reference number, commenter, comment type, response number, and response treatment. Following the table is a compilation of the Draft EIS comments received as of January 29, 2007. The comment documents are grouped by Federal agency, State of Arizona agency, organization, and public. Within the Federal agency, State of Arizona agency, and organization sections, the comment documents are listed in alphabetical order by agency or organization name. Within the public section, the transcripts from the public hearings are listed first, followed by comments received via fax, mail, or email listed in alphabetical order by last name of the commenter. To protect the privacy of individuals, contact information has been obscured on comments received from the public. Each comment document (or public hearing commenter) was assigned a reference number. Then, the individual comments were assigned a secondary reference number. The comment reference numbers are identified in the comment reference documents in Appendix A within the comment summary and comment and response tracking table, and listed within the response document with the appropriate response(s). Comments received after the comment summary package was put together are included at the end of Appendix A.